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THE UNITED STATES.

MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT TYLER TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES, READ DECEMBER 7, 1842.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

We have continued reasons to express our profound gratitude to the great Creator of all things for numerous benefits conferred upon us as a people. Blessed with genial seasons, the husbandman has his garners filled with abundance, and the necessities of life, not to speak of its luxuries abound in every direction. While in some other nations steady and industrious labour can hardly find the means of subsistence, the greatest evil which we have to encounter, is a surplus of production beyond the home demand, which seeks, and with difficulty finds, a partial market in other regions. The health of the country, with partial exceptions, has for the past year been preserved; and under their free and wise institutions, the United States rapidly advancing towards the consummation of the high destiny which an overruling Providence seems to have marked out for them. Except from domestic convulsion, and at peace with the world, we are left free to consult as to the best means of securing and advancing the happiness of the people. Such are the circumstances under which you now assemble in your respective chambers, and which should lead us to unite in praise and thanksgiving to that great God who made us, and who preserves us as a nation.

I congratulate you, fellow citizens, on the happy change in the aspect of our foreign affairs since my last annual message. Causes of complaint at that time existed between the United States and Great Britain, which, attended by irritating circumstances, threatened seriously the public peace. The difficulty of adjusting amicably the questions at issue between the two countries, was in no small degree augmented by the lapse of time since they had their origin. The opinions entertained by the Executive on several of the leading topics in dispute, were frankly set forth in the message at the opening of the year last session. The settlement of a will on the part of Great Britain, the United States with power to negotiate upon most of the points of difference, indicated a desire on her part amicably to adjust them, and that minister was met by the Executive in the same spirit which had dictated its mission. The treaty consequent thereon having been duly ratified by the two Governments, a copy, together with the correspondence which accompanied it, is herewith communicated. I trust that whilst you see in it nothing objectionable, it may be the means of preserving, for an indefinite period, the amicable relations happily existing between the two Governments. The question of power was between the United States and Great Britain, and the question of the deepest interest not only to themselves, but to the civilized world, since it is scarcely possible that a war could exist between them without endangering the peace of Christendom. The immediate effect of the Treaty upon ourselves will be felt in the security afforded to mercantile enterprises, which, no longer apprehensive of interruption, will venture in greater numbers in the most distant seas; and, freighted with the diversified productions of every land, returns to bless our own. There is nothing in the Treaty which in the slightest degree, compromises the honour or dignity of either nation. Next to the settlement of the boundary line, which most says is a matter of difficulty between the States, and the question of the deepest interest, which seemed to threaten the greatest embarrassment was that connected with the African slave trade.

By the 10th article of the Treaty of Ghent, it was expressly declared that "whereas the traffic in slaves is irreconcilable with the principles of humanity and justice; and whereas both His Majesty and the United States are desirous of continuing the efforts to bring about the abolition, it is hereby agreed that the contracting parties shall use their best endeavours to accomplish as desirable an object." In the enforcement of the laws and treaty stipulations of Great Britain, a practice had threatened to grow up on the part of its cruisers of subjecting to visitation, ships sailing under the American flag, which, when in the act of violating the laws, would subject to vexatious a branch of our trade which was daily increasing, and which required the most vigilant care of the Government. And although Lord Aberdeen, in his correspondence with the American Envoy at London, expressly disclaimed all right to detain an American ship on the high seas, and to send her to a port of call, and, in other words, and I therefore felt it my duty distinctly to declare, in my annual message to Congress, that no such concession could be made, and that the United States had both the will and the ability to enforce their own laws, and to protect their flag from being used for purposes wholly forbidden by those laws, and to maintain the moral character of the world. Taking the Message as his letter of instructions, our then Minister at Paris felt himself required to assume the same ground in a remonstrance which he felt it to be his duty to present to M. Guizot, and through him to the King of the French, against what has been called the Quintuple treaty, and its conduct, in this respect, met with the approval of this Government. In close conformity with these views, the eighth article of the Treaty was framed, which provides that "each nation shall keep aloof in the African seas a force not less than eighty guns, to act separately and apart, under the command of their respective Governments, and for the enforcement of their laws, and obligations." From this it will be seen that the ground assumed in the message has been fully maintained, at the same time that the stipulations of the Treaty of Ghent are to be carried out in good faith by the two countries, and that all pretence is removed for interference with our commerce for any purpose whatever by a foreign Government. While, therefore, the United States have been standing up for the freedom of the seas, they have not thought proper to make that a pretext for avoiding a fulfilment of their Treaty stipulations, or a ground for giving countenance to a trade prohibited by our laws. A similar arrangement by the other great powers, could not fail to sweep from the ocean the slave trade, without the interpolation of any new principle into the maritime code. We may be permitted to hope that the

example thus set will be followed by some if not all of them. We thereby also afford suitable protection to the fair trader, in those seas, thus fulfilling at the same time the dictates of a sound policy, and complying with the claims of justice and humanity.

It would have furnished additional cause for congratulation, if the treaty could have led to a misunderstanding, in the relations of the two Governments. The territory of the United States, commonly called the Oregon territory, lying in the Pacific ocean, north of the 42nd degree of latitude, to a portion of which Great Britain lays claim, begins to attract the attention of our fellow-citizens, and has become a subject of great interest. It was so lately an unbroken wilderness, in more contiguous regions, is preparing to flow over those vast districts which stretch from the Rocky mountains to the Pacific ocean. In advance of the acquisition of individual rights to these lands, sound policy dictates that every effort should be resorted to by the two Governments, to settle their respective claims, it became manifest at an early hour of the late negotiations, that any attempt for the time being to determine those rights, would lead to a protracted dispute, which might embrace in its failure other more pressing matters, and the Executive did not regard it as proper to waive all the advantages of an honourable adjustment of other differences of great magnitude and importance, because this was not immediately pressing, stood in the way. Although the difficulty referred to may not for several years to come involve the peace of the two countries, yet I shall not delay to urge on Great Britain the importance of its early settlement. Nor will I withhold my commercial importance to the two countries be overlooked; and I have good reason to believe that it will comport with the policy of England, as it does with that of the United States, to seize upon this moment, when most of the causes of irritation have passed away, to cement the peace and unity of the two countries, by wisely removing all grounds of probable future collision.

With further powers of Europe our relations continue on the most amicable footing. Treaties now existing with them should be rigidly observed, and every opportunity, compatible with the interests of the United States, should be seized upon to enlarge the basis of commercial intercourse. Peace with all the world is the true foundation of our policy, which can only be rendered permanent by the practice of equal and impartial justice to all nations, and the maintenance of the peace of the world. Our great desire should be to enter into that rivalry which looks to the general good, in the cultivation of the sciences, the enlargement of the field for the exercise of the mechanical arts, and the spread of commerce—that great civilization—to every land and sea. Careless of any interference in all questions exclusively referring to themselves, but to the political interests of Europe, we may be permitted to hope an equal exemption from the interference of European Governments, in what relates to the States of the American Continent.

On the 23rd of April last, the commissioners on the part of the United States, under the convention with the Mexican Republic, of the 11th April, 1839, made to the proper department a formal report in relation to the proceeding of the commission. From this it appears, that the total amount awarded to the claimants by the commissioners and the umpire appointed under that convention, was two millions twenty-six thousand and seventy-nine dollars and sixty-eight cents. The arbiters having decided that the claims of the United States were three million three hundred and thirty-six thousand, eight hundred and thirty-seven dollars and five cents, were submitted to the board two late for its consideration. The Minister of the United States of Mexico has been duly authorized to make demand for the payment of the same according to the terms of the convention, and the provisions of the act of Congress of the 12th June, 1840. He has also been instructed to communicate to that government the expectations of the Government of the United States in relation to those claims which were not disposed of according to the provisions of the convention, and all other claims of the United States against the Mexican Government.

He has also been furnished with other instructions, to be followed by him in case the Government of Mexico should not find itself in a condition to make present payment of the amount of the awards, in specie or its equivalent.

I am happy to be able to say that the citizens of the United States, who were fully satisfied with the result of the late Treaty, and who were wrongfully taken and held as prisoners of war in Mexico, have all been liberated.

A correspondence has taken place between the Department of State and the Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs, upon the complaint of Mexico that citizens of the United States were permitted to give aid to the inhabitants of Texas in the past year, been materially obstructed by the military regulations and conflicts in those countries.

The ratifications of the Treaty between the United States and the Republic of

Enosador, of the 13th of June, 1839, have been exchanged, and that instrument has been duly promulgated on the part of this Government. Copies are now communicated to Congress with a view to enable that body to make such changes in the laws applicable to our intercourse with that Republic, as may be deemed requisite.

Provision has been made by the Government of Chili, for the payment of the claim on account of the illegal detention of the brig *Warrior*, at Coquimbo, in 1820. This Government has reason to believe that other claims of our citizens against Chili, will be hastened to a final and satisfactory close.

The Empire of Brazil has not been altogether exempt from those convulsions which so constantly afflict the neighbouring republics. Disturbances which recently broke out, are, however, now understood to be quieted. But these occurrences, by threatening the stability of the Governments, or by causing incessant and violent changes in them, or in the persons who administer them, tend greatly to retard provisions for a just indemnity for losses and injuries suffered by individual objects or citizens of other States. The Government of the United States will feel it to be its duty, however, to consent to no delay, not unavoidable, in making satisfaction for wrongs and injuries sustained by its own citizens. Many years having, in some cases, elapsed, a decisive and effectual course of proceeding will be demanded of the respective governments against whom claims have been preferred.

The vexatious, harassing and expensive war which so long prevailed with the Indian tribes on the western coast of Florida, has happily been terminated; whereby our army has been relieved from a service of the most disagreeable character, and the Treasury from a large expenditure. Some casual outbreaks may occur, such as are incident to the close proximity of border settlers and the Indians; but the Government of the United States will feel it to be its duty, however, to consent to no delay, not unavoidable, in making satisfaction for wrongs and injuries sustained by its own citizens. Many years having, in some cases, elapsed, a decisive and effectual course of proceeding will be demanded of the respective governments against whom claims have been preferred.

The balance in the Treasury on the 1st of January, 1842, (exclusive of the amount deposited with the States Trust Funds and Indian monies) was \$20,000,000. During the three first quarters of the present year, from all sources, amount to \$26,616,593 dollars, 78 cents; of which more than fourteen millions were received from customs, and about one million from the public lands. The receipts for the fourth quarter are estimated at nearly eight millions; and the total amount expected from Customs, and three millions and a half from Loans and Treasury notes. The expenditure of the first three quarters of the present year exceed twenty-six millions; and those estimated for the fourth quarter amount to about eight millions; and it is anticipated that there will be a deficiency of half a million in the January number—but that the amount of outstanding warrants (estimated at 800,000 dollars) will leave an actual balance of about 244,000 dollars in the Treasury. Among the expenditures of the year, are more than eight millions for the public debt, and 600,000 dollars on account of the distribution to the States, of the proceeds of the sale of the public lands.

The present tariff of duties was somewhat hastily and hurriedly passed near the close of the late session of Congress. That it should have defects can, therefore, be surprising to no one. To remedy such defects as may be found to exist in many of its numerous provisions, will not fail to merit your attention, and will well merit enquiry, whether the execution of its duties in cash does not call for the introduction of a system which has proved highly beneficial in countries where it has been adopted. I refer to the warehousing system. The first and most prominent effect which it would produce, would be to protect the market alike against redundant or superfluous supplies of foreign commodities, both of which in the long run, are injurious as well to the manufacturer as to the importer. The quantity of goods in store being at all times readily known, it would enable the importer, with an approach to accuracy, to ascertain the actual wants of the market, and to regulate his supplies accordingly. If, however, he should fail to import, or import in excess above the public wants, he could readily correct its evils by availing himself of the benefits and advantages of the system thus established. In the storehouse, the goods imported would await the demands of the market, and their issues would be governed by the fixed principles of demand and supply. Thus an approximation would be made to a steadiness and uniformity of price, which, if attainable, would conduce to the decided advantage of mercantile and mechanical operations.

The apprehension may be well entertained that without something to ameliorate the rigour for cash payments, the entire of the United States may fall into the hands of a few wealthy capitalists in this country and in Europe. The small importer, who requires all the money he can raise for investments abroad, and who can but little afford to pay the lowest duty, would have to submit to advance a portion of his funds in order to pay the duties, and would be liable to the interest upon the amount thus paid for all the time the goods might remain unsold, which might absorb his profits. The rich capitalist abroad, as well as at home, would thus possess, after a short time, an almost exclusive monopoly of the import trade, and laws designed for the benefit of all, would thus operate for the benefit of the few—a result wholly unbecomingly with the spirit of our institutions, and anti-republican in all its tendencies. The Warehousing System would enable the importer to watch the market, and to select his own time for offering his goods for sale. A profitable portion of

the carrying trade in articles entered for the benefit of drawback, must also be seriously affected, without the adoption of some expedient to relieve the cash system. The Warehousing System would afford that relief, since the owner would have a safe recourse to the public storehouses, and might, without advancing the duty, reship within some reasonable period to foreign ports. A further effect of the measure would be to supersede the system of drawbacks, thereby effectually protecting the Government against fraud, as the right of drawback would not attach to goods after their withdrawal from the public stores.

In revising the existing tariff of duties, should you deem proper to do so at your present session, I can only repeat the suggestions and recommendations which, upon several occasions, I have heretofore felt it to be my duty to offer to Congress. The great, primary, and controlling interest of the American People is union—union, not only in the mere forms of government, but in the sense which may be broken up, and founded in an attachment of States and individuals for each other. This union in sentiment and feeling can only be preserved by the adoption of that course of policy, which neither giving exclusive benefits to some, nor imposing unnecessary burdens upon others, shall consult the interests of all, by judiciously moderating, and thereby seeking to harmonize public opinion, and causing the people everywhere to feel and to know that the Government is careful of the interests of all alike. Nor is there any subject in regard to which moderation, connected with a wise discrimination, is more necessary, than in the tariff of duties, and on imports. Whether reference be had to revenue, the primary object in the imposition of taxes, or to the incidents which necessarily flow from their imposition, it is entirely true, that extraneous duties defeat their end and object, not only by exciting in the public mind an hostility against the Government, but by inducing a system of smuggling, on an extensive scale, and the practice of every manner of fraud upon the revenue, which the utmost vigilance of Government cannot effectually suppress. An opposite course of policy would be attended by results essentially different, of which every interest of society, and none more than those of the manufacturer, would be most important.

Among the most striking of its benefits would be that derived from the general acquiescence of the country in its support, and the consequent permanency and stability which would be given to the operations of industry. It cannot be too often repeated, that no system of legislation can be wise which is fluctuating and uncertain. No interest can thrive under it. The prudent capitalist will never adventure his capital in manufacturing establishments, or in any other leading pursuit of life, if there exists a state of uncertainty as to whether the Government will repeal to-morrow what it has enacted to-day. Fugitive profits, however high, if threatened with a ruinous reduction by a vacillating policy, will not induce the capitalist to venture his money. The prudent capitalist will never adventure his capital in manufacturing establishments, or in any other leading pursuit of life, if there exists a state of uncertainty as to whether the Government will repeal to-morrow what it has enacted to-day. Fugitive profits, however high, if threatened with a ruinous reduction by a vacillating policy, will not induce the capitalist to venture his money. The prudent capitalist will never adventure his capital in manufacturing establishments, or in any other leading pursuit of life, if there exists a state of uncertainty as to whether the Government will repeal to-morrow what it has enacted to-day. Fugitive profits, however high, if threatened with a ruinous reduction by a vacillating policy, will not induce the capitalist to venture his money.

The report of the Secretary of the War Department exhibits a very full and satisfactory account of the various duties and important interests committed to the charge of that officer. It is particularly gratifying to find that the expenditures for the military service are greatly reduced in amount—that a strict system of economy has been introduced into the service, and the abuses of past years greatly reformed. The fortifications on our maritime coast have been prosecuted with much vigour, and at many points our defences are in a very considerable state of forwardness. The suggestions in reference to the establishment of means of communication with our territories on the Pacific, and to the surveys so essential to a knowledge of the interior of that vast and fertile country, are respectfully recommended to your consideration. While I would propose nothing inconsistent with friendly negotiations to settle the extent of our claims in that region, yet a prudent forecast points out the necessity of such measures as may enable us to maintain our rights. The arrangements made for preserving our commerce on the coast of Mexico, and Texas, and keeping in check the Indians in that quarter, will be maintained as long as circumstances may require.

For several years angry contentions have grown out of the disposition directed by law to be made of the mineral lands held by the Government in several of the States. The Government is constituted the landlord, and the citizens of the States wherein the lands are its tenants. The relation is an unwise one, and it would be much more conducive to the public interest that a sale of the lands should be made, than that they should remain in their present condition. The supply of the ore would be more abundantly and certainly furnished when drawn from the enterprise and the industry of the proprietor, than under the present system.

The recommendation of the Secretary in regard to the improvements of the Western waters and certain prominent harbours on the lakes, merit and I doubt not receive, your serious attention. The great importance of these subjects to the prosperity of the extensive region referred to, and the security of the whole country in time of war, cannot escape observation. The losses of life and property which annually occur in the navigation of the Mississippi alone, because of the dangerous obstructions in the river, make a loud demand upon Congress for the adoption of the plan proposed by the Secretary, yet that in this sum is proposed to be included \$400,000, for the purchase of clothing, which when once expended will be annually reimbursed by the sale of the clothes, and will thus constitute a perpetual fund, without any new appropriation to the same object. To this may

also be added \$50,000, asked to cover the arrangements of past years, and \$250,000 in order to maintain a competent squadron on the coast of Africa, all of which, when deducted, will reduce the expenditures nearly within the limits of those of the current year. While, however, the expenditures will thus remain very nearly the same as of the antecedent year, it is proposed to add greatly to the operations of the Marine, and in lieu of only twenty-five ships in commission, and but little in the way of building, to keep, with the same expenditure, forty-one vessels afloat, and to build twelve ships of a small class.

A strict system of accountability is established, and great pains are taken to insure industry, fidelity, and economy, in every department of duty. Experiments have been instituted to test the purity of various materials, particularly copper, iron, and coal, so as to prevent fraud and imposition.

It will appear by the report of the Postmaster-General, that the great point which for several years has been so much desired, has, during the current year, been fully accomplished. The expenditures of the department for the current year have been brought within its income, without lessening its general usefulness. There has been an increase of revenue equal to 166,000 dollars for the year 1842, over that of the year 1841, and it is believed, that an addition having been made to the number of letters and newspapers transmitted through the mails. The Post Office laws have been honestly administered, and fidelity has been observed in accounting for, and paying over by the subordinates of the Department, the moneys which have been received. For the details of the service, I refer you to the report.

I flatter myself that the exhibition thus made of the condition of the public administration will serve to convince you that every proper attention has been paid to the interests of the country by those who have been called to the heads of the different Departments. The reduction in the annual expenditure of the Government already accomplished, furnishes a sure evidence of economy in the application of the public moneys, is regarded as a paramount duty.

At peace with all the world—the personal liberty of the citizen sacredly maintained, and his rights secured, under institutions deriving all their authority from the direct sanction of the people—with a soil fertile almost beyond example, and with a climate, by judicious management of climate and production, what remains to be done in order to advance the happiness and prosperity of such a people? Under ordinary circumstances, this enquiry could readily be answered. The best that probably could be done for a people inhabiting such a country, would be to fortify their peace and security in the prosecution of their various pursuits, by guarding them against invasion from without, and violence from within. The rest for the greater part, might be left to their own energy and enterprise. The chief embarrassments which, at the moment, exhibit themselves, have arisen from over action; and the most difficult task which remains to be accomplished, is that of correcting and overcoming its effects. Between the years 1833 and 1838, additions were made to bank capital and bank issues, in the form of notes designed for circulation, to an extent enormously great. The question seemed to be, not how the best currency could be provided, but in what manner the great test amount of bank paper could be put in circulation. This was a vast amount, and it was called money—since, for the time being, it answered the purposes of money—was thrown upon the country; an over issue which was attended, as a necessary consequence, by an extravagant increase of the prices of all articles of property, the spread of a speculative mania over the country, and a general depreciation in the general intelligence on the part of the States and individuals, the prostration of public and private credit, a depreciation in the market value of real and personal estate, and has left large districts of country almost entirely without any circulating medium. In view of the fact, that in 1839, the whole circulating currency of the United States amounted to but 61,323,898 dollars, according to the Treasury statements, and that an addition had been made thereto, of the enormous sum of 88,000,000 dollars in seven years, (the circulation on the 1st of January, 1842, being stated at 149,185,890 dollars) and by the great facilities in obtaining loans from foreign sources, who were seized with the same speculative mania which prevailed in the United States—and the large importations of funds from abroad, the result of stock sales and loans—no one can be surprised at the apparent, but substantial state of prosperity which every where prevailed over the land, and the little cause of surprise, that when the present prostration of every thing, and the ruin which has befallen so many of our fellow-citizens in the sudden withdrawal from circulation, of so large an amount of bank issues since 1837—exceeding, as is believed, the amount added to the paper 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